This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.      (Currently amended) ~~In an online environment, a~~ An automated method of providing a user with a gem stone assessment, the method including the steps of:

receiving a plurality of ~~proportional~~ objective parameter values from the user relating to the proportions of the gem stone;

~~obtaining~~ determining a plurality of aesthetic parameter values ~~based upon the~~ derived from said received objective parameter values;

computing a rating value of the gem stone based upon said aesthetic parameter values; and

providing a gem ~~rating~~ stone assessment to the user based upon ~~the plurality of~~ said computed rating value and/or said aesthetic parameter values.


2.      (Currently amended) Method of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ one or more parameter values ~~at least include a depth percentage, table percentage, crown angle or percentage, pavilion angle or percentage, cutlet percentage and girdle thickness~~ are selected from the following:  depth percentage; table percentage; crown angle; crown percentage; pavilion angle; pavilion percentage; culet percentage; and girdle thickness.


3.      (Currently amended) Method of claim 1 wherein the aesthetic parameters include one or more of brilliance, fire, scintillation and diameter spread.


4.      (Currently amended) Method of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the ~~aesthetic parameters further include at least one of the following~~ step of computing a rating value includes applying an adjustment to one or more of the aesthetic parameters and/or the rating value in accordance with one or more of the following gem stone parameters:
        (i)     vertical spread;
        (ii)    table size;
        (iii)   girdle thickness;
        (iv)    culet size;

2

      (v)     half facets;

      (vi)    symmetry;

      (vii)   polish.

5.       (Cancelled)

6.       (Currently amended) Method of claim 1 wherein <u>the gem stone assessment includes</u> a description of the ~~gem's~~ visual appearance ~~is also provided~~ <u>of the gem stone</u> based upon the determined aesthetic parameters <u>and/or the computed rating value</u>.

7.       (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein the gem ~~being assessed~~ <u>stone</u> is a diamond.

8.       (Currently amended) Computer program product including a computer usable medium having computer readable program code ~~and computer readable system code~~ embodied on said medium for providing a user with a gem <u>stone</u> assessment, said computer program product further including computer readable code within said computer usable medium for:

      receiving a plurality of ~~proportional~~ <u>objective</u> parameter values from the user relating to the proportions of the gem <u>stone</u>;

      ~~obtaining~~ <u>determining</u> a plurality of aesthetic parameter values ~~based upon the~~ <u>derived from said</u> received ~~proportional~~ <u>objective</u> parameter values;

      <u>computing a rating value of the gem stone based upon said aesthetic parameter values;</u> and

      providing a gem ~~rating~~ <u>stone</u> assessment <u>to the user</u> based upon ~~the plurality of~~ <u>said computed rating value and/or said</u> aesthetic parameter values.

9.       (Currently amended) Computer program product of claim 8 wherein [[the]] <u>one or more</u> parameter values ~~at least include a depth percentage, table percentage, crown angle or percentage, pavilion angle or percentage and a culet percentage~~ <u>are selected from the following: depth percentage; table percentage; crown angle; crown percentage; pavilion angle; pavilion percentage; culet percentage; and girdle thickness</u>.

10.  (Currently amended) Computer program product of claim 8 wherein the aesthetic parameters include <u>one or more of</u> brilliance, fire, scintillation and diameter spread.

11.  (Currently amended) Computer program product of claim ~~10 wherein the aesthetic parameters further include at least one of the following~~ 8 <u>including computer readable code within said computer usable medium for applying an adjustment to one or more of the aesthetic parameters and/or the rating value in accordance with one or more of the following gem stone parameters</u>:

      (viii)    vertical spread;

      (ix)    table size;

      (x)    girdle thickness;

      (xi)    culet size;

      (xii)    half facets;

      (xiii)    symmetry;

      (xiv)    polish.

12.  (Cancelled)

13.  (Currently amended) Computer program product of claim 8 ~~further including the step of~~ <u>including computer readable code within said computer usable medium for</u> providing <u>the user with</u> a description of the ~~gem's~~ visual appearance <u>of the gem stone</u> based upon the determined aesthetic parameters <u>and/or the computed rating value</u>.

14.  (Currently amended) Computer program product according to claim 8 wherein the gem <u>stone is a diamond</u>.

15-20.  (Cancelled)

21.  (New) Method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining includes retrieving said aesthetic parameter values from one or more lookup tables indexed by at least two of said objective parameter values.

22.     (New) Method of claim 21 wherein entries in the lookup tables are predetermined values computed using a computer software program for performing virtual diamond analysis.

23.     (New) Method of claim 21 wherein entries in the lookup tables are predetermined values obtained by analysing actual diamonds.

24.     (New) Method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining includes computing said aesthetic parameter values from a virtual model of a diamond corresponding with the received objective parameter values using a computer software program for performing virtual diamond analysis.

25.     (New) Method of claim 1 wherein the rating value is computed by summing the aesthetic parameter values.

26.     (New) Method of claim 1 wherein the gem stone assessment includes a numerical value corresponding with the computed rating value.

27.     (New) Method of claim 1 wherein said objective parameter values are received electronically over a telecommunications network link.

28.     (New) Method of claim 27 wherein the telecommunications network is the internet.

29.     (New) Computer program product of claim 8 including one or more lookup tables of aesthetic parameter values embodied on said computer usable medium, and wherein the computer program product further includes computer readable code within said computer usable medium for, in the step of determining, indexing said lookup tables using at least two of said objective parameter values to retrieve the derived aesthetic parameter values.

30.    (New) Computer program product of claim 29 wherein entries in the lookup tables are predetermined values computed using a computer software program for performing virtual diamond analysis.

31.    (New) Computer program product of claim 29 wherein entries in the lookup tables are predetermined values obtained by analyzing actual diamonds.

32.    (New) Computer program product of claim 8 including computer readable code within said computer usable medium for, in the step of determining, performing a virtual diamond analysis to compute said aesthetic parameter values from a virtual model of a diamond corresponding with the received objective parameter values.

33.    (New) Computer program product of claim 8 including computer readable code within said computer usable medium for computing said rating value by summing the aesthetic parameter values.

34.    (New) A system for providing a user with a gem stone assessment including:
        input means for receiving a plurality of objective parameter values from the user relating to the proportions of the gem stone;
        means for determining a plurality of aesthetic parameter values derived from said received objective parameter values;
        means for computing a rating value of the gem stone based upon said aesthetic parameter values; and
        output means for providing a gem stone assessment to the user based upon said computed rating value and/or said aesthetic parameter values.

35.    (New) System of claim 34 wherein the input means comprises a computer input device for the user to enter said plurality of objective parameter values, and the output means comprises a computer display device for displaying the gem stone assessment to the user.

36.     (New) System of claim 34 wherein the input means and output means include means for receiving the objective parameter values from the user and for transmitting the gem stone assessment to the user over the internet.

37.     (New) System of claim 34 wherein the input means includes an interface with a diamond proportion measuring device for receiving proportional parameters of a diamond measured by said measuring device.